

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 SCA-01 L-03 SY-10 NSC-10

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TO USLO PEKING

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

S E C R E T STATE 221165

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: CGEN, ACOM, PFOR, CH

SUBJECT: DIPLOMATIC COURIER SERVICE WITH PRC

REFS: A. PEKING 1329

B. STATE 117627

C. PEKING 0306

1. RESTRICTIONS WHICH APPLIED TO PORTS OF ENTRY/EXIT FOR

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OFFICIALS OF COMMUNIST COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN LIFTED. THERE-

FORE WE ARE NOW RPT NOW IN A POSITION TO RESPOND FAVORABLY TO THE PRC'S JUNE 14 PROPOSAL ON DIPLOMATIC POUCH SERVICE. DUE TO SECURITY QUESTIONS CONCERNING CERTAIN SEAPORTS, HOWEVER, WE ARE LIMITING OUR RESPONSE ON PORTS OF ENTRY TO TRAIN AND PLANE ARRIVALS.

2. REQUEST YOU INFORM MFA:

A. WE AGREE THAT EACH SIDE SHALL ISSUE MULTIPLE ENTRY/EXIT VISAS VALID FOR A TERM OF SIX MONTHS TO TWENTY-FIVE DIPLOMATIC COURIERS OF THE OTHER SIDE. WE AGREE THAT VISAS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE OTHER SIDE'S FOREIGN MINISTRY, LIAISON OFFICE OR DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS DESIGNATED BY IT. CONSIDERING THE ROUTES BY WHICH OUR COURIERS TRAVEL, AND IN PLACE OF THE POSTS DESIGNATED IN THE JUNE 14 PROPOSAL, WE REQUEST THAT THE CHINESE SIDE CONSIDER DESIGNATING EMBASSIES IN VIENTIANE, RANGOON AND ISLAMABAD AND THE CONSULATE GENERAL

IN KARACHI FOR THIS PURPOSE. WE ALSO REQUEST THAT THE MFA AGREE THAT WE MIGHT OCCASIONALLY CALL ON THE SERVICES OF THE CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE IN HONG KONG TO OBTAIN SUCH VISAS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ISSUANCE OF VISAS IMMEDIATELY ON PRESENTATION OF PASSPORT (SEE B. BELOW) WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE IN THIS LAST CASE. IF OTHER LOCATIONS LATER APPEAR EQUALLY CONVENIENT OR MORE CONVENIENT TO OUR COURIERS WE MAY SEEK TO ADD TO OR AMEND THE LIST. WE WELCOME PRC SUGGESTIONS AS TO WHICH US DIPLOMATIC OR CONSULAR MISSIONS WOULD BE MOST CONVENIENT FOR CHINESE COURIERS.

B. WE AGREE THAT EACH SIDE MAY SUBMIT THE NAMES OF UP TO TWENTY-FIVE DIPLOMATIC COURIERS EVERY SIX MONTHS AT ONE TIME OR IN BATCHES. WE AGREE THAT VISAS FOR COURIERS SHOULD BE ISSUED WITHIN A WEEK OF RECEIVING A LIST OR IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES UPON RECEIPT OF PASSPORTS.

C. WE AGREE THAT PORTS OF ENTRY/EXIT PERMITTED TO DIPLOMATIC COURIERS OF THE OTHER SIDE SHOULD INCLUDE ALL PORTS OF ENTRY/EXIT ALLOWED TO FOREIGNERS ARRIVING BY TRAIN OR PLANE. (FYI: IF YOU INTEND GIVING MFA WRITTEN RESPONSE, REST OF THIS PARA SHOULD BE PRESENTED ORALLY. END FYI).

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IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT, DESPITE THE STATEMENT IN THE PAPER DATED APRIL 13, 1973 AND PRESENTED TO THE MFA BY A MEMBER OF THE USLO ADVANCE PARTY, THERE HAS BEEN A US REGULATION IN EFFECT WHICH RESTRICTED THE PORTS OF ENTRY/EXIT WHICH COULD BE USED BY DIPLOMATIC COURIERS OF SOME COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. THE DELAY IN RESPONDING TO THE MFA'S JUNE 14 PROPOSAL HAS BEEN DUE TO OUR EFFORTS TO AMEND THAT REGULATION. WE HAVE NOW

DONE SO AND ARE IN A POSITION TO AGREE TO THE RECIPROCAL ARRANGEMENT AS SPECIFIED ABOVE. AS A MATTER OF PRACTICE WE DO NOT LIST ALL OF THE PORTS OF ENTRY IN THE VISA, BUT WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE CHINESE SIDE DOES. WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING, AS A MATTER OF GENERAL INTEREST, WHAT PORTS OF ENTRY/EXIT PRC COURIERS NORMALLY INTEND TO USE. ARE WE CORRECT IN ASSUMING THAT ROUTES FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA THROUGH KUNMING AND NANNING, WHICH ARE ON INTERNATIONAL AIR ROUTES, WOULD NOW BE OPEN TO US DIPLOMATIC COURIERS? WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE USING THOSE ROUTES AT THIS TIME BUT WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING IF THEY WOULD BE AVAILABLE IN THE FUTURE.

D. WE APPRECIATE THE MFA'S COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD FURTHER DISCUSSIONS OF ISSUES INVOLVING BOTH ACCOMPANIED AND UNACCOMPANIED POUCH SERVICE. WE ARE HAPPY TO STATE THAT THE UNACCOMPANIED POUCH SYSEM HAS BEEN WORKING WELL AND WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE PRC'S COOPERATION IN THIS REGARD. RUSH

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